

High School–to–College Transition Project

A Policy Study of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate & Dual Credit Programs in Indiana

Indiana Laws Supporting College Credit for High School Students

Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act

Indiana’s 1987 Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act permits high school juniors and seniors to enroll in college courses and count approved course credits toward high school graduation. The act requires school corporations to set policies and develop agreements with postsecondary institutions to award secondary and postsecondary credit for students. According to the act, postsecondary institutions should base admission decisions for high school students on “the standards ordinarily used to decide student enrollments” (IC 21-43-4-10). Colleges and universities are required to award credit for courses passed through dual enrollment to students who later enroll in the same institution (IC 21-43-4-15). Revisions in 2005 to the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act encouraged more students to enroll in dual credit courses by eliminating the requirement that students receive permission from the school corporation. The State Board of Education’s implementing regulations (511 IAC 6-10) leave most authority to local-level agreements between K–12 school corporations and postsecondary institutions.

Double Up for College

In 2006, the Indiana General Assembly enacted Double Up for College (IC 21-43-5) to encourage secondary schools and public postsecondary institutions to establish collaborative programs featuring extensive use of dual credit. The Double Up law allows public postsecondary institutions to “set the criteria for a faculty member, an instructor, or other individual responsible for teaching a [dual credit] course” (IC 21-43-5-4). It also enables public postsecondary institutions to “ensure that the content and rigor of a course offered is adequate to warrant providing credit” (IC 21-43-5-4). Double Up requires public colleges and universities to accept credit for all classes awarded through dual enrollment that are “(1) in the core transfer library; or (2) subject to an articulation agreement” (IC 21-43-5-12) regardless of which postsecondary institution issued the credit. If a student matriculates at the same public postsecondary institution from which they earned the dual credit, the institution is required to award “credit toward meeting the degree requirements” (IC 21-43-5-12). Public postsecondary institutions offering dual credit taught by high school teachers must obtain accreditation from the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) (IC 21-43-5-13). Double Up also established that public institutions should waive dual credit tuition for students eligible for free and reduced price lunch (IC 21-14-8-1).

College Preparation Curriculum Act

The Core 40 statute was amended in 2006 to mandate that all high schools provide at least two courses counting for dual credit, as well as at least two courses of Advanced Placement (IC 20-30-10-4).

High School Fast Track to College

High School Fast Track to College allows Ivy Tech Community College, Vincennes University, or any public college or university to offer a program that allows older students to earn a high school diploma by attending classes at the college or university. Intended for high school dropouts, the law helps students missing high school credits by allowing them to enroll in college courses toward a certificate, associates degree or bachelor’s degree. After completing all high school diploma requirements, the Indiana Department of Education issues the student’s high school diploma (IC 21-43-6, 21-43-7, and 21-43-8).